



Luverne UMC

April 2024 Messenger

Easter Greetings to all of you....

By the time you read this, you may very well have celebrated the Risen Christ at our Easter Service, maybe even picked up the last of the Easter basket grass and finished off the egg salad from all the boiled eggs. Easter is a special time in our Christian lives, one that calls us to celebrate and embrace our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ as he breaks the stronghold of death and makes eternal life for us a reality. He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed!

One of the most special stories I have found in the Bible is the story of the two men walking on the road to Emmaus after all the events of Holy Week in Jerusalem. They talked seriously of what they had seen, offering thoughts and opinions to each other when a man appeared asking them what events they were speaking of...they didn't recognize him. As they continued along, the men shared with (Jesus) about the arrest, death, and resurrection of the man they called Jesus. (Jesus) then offered depth to the meaning of those events.

Once they got to the village where the men lived, they tried to coax the man to join them for dinner, to which he agreed.... while there (Jesus) took bread, blessed it, and broke it and gave it to them. It was then that their eyes were opened to whom was sitting with them. After that, his presence left their home.

And then my favorite part, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking with us on the road?"

While we walked through Holy Week, the events reminded us just how deep the love Jesus has for us. Jesus endured until his death and then came back to life to give us life!

As we journey through our own lives, Jesus walks along side of us, sometimes giving only a hint that he is there, but still making his presence known to us. In this story, you will notice how the men eventually invited Jesus into their home, indicating an interest to know more, to be closer, to have time and it was then when Jesus truly revealed himself to them. They then realized that they had felt him from the moment Jesus joined them on the road.

That's how Jesus loves us.... always there, not imposing on us, waiting for an invitation. Embrace, if even for a moment, the idea that Jesus indeed walks along our journey.... anticipating a moment when you might invite him in and get to know him more deeply. The entirety of his life was for you.... because God loves you that much! This Easter Season is a celebration of life, and a celebration of all that Jesus did, We should break bread, invite him into your heart and discover a life of love and guidance!

Happy Easter! Be Blessed!

Pastor Dorie

VERSE of the MONTH

The verse to focus on this is Matthew 7:7-8. It reads:

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened".

PRAYER

Prayer has been a huge focus this month. Prayer is central to our faith, one of the most significant ways our faith grows and gives us the opportunity to be able to talk with Jesus. Because of this, our church has several ways for us to corporately lift up the needs of our faith family and their family and friends in times of needs and beyond.

UMC Luverne Members and Friends that live in Special Homes:

Mary Jane Brown Home
~ Bill Holling ~ David Johnson
~ Phyllis Mohr

MN Veterans Home
~ Keith Luethje

Poplar Creek Assisted Living
~ Annabelle Frakes



The Oaks
~ Sally Cooksley

The Tuff Home - Hills
~ Ralph Watts



COMMUNION SUNDAY

APRIL 14, 2024

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SHUT IN COMMUNION/VISITS

APRIL 10, 2024

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APRIL 16, 2024



May is Meals on Wheels month

Children and Youth End of the Year Party - May 5

Confirmation Sunday - May 12

Men's Group Meeting @ LUMC - 8am - May 18

Baccalaureate/Senior Recognition Sunday - May 19

Luverne High School Graduation - May 26



The Prayer Chain is available for anyone with cares and/or concerns. Jan Brandenburg is the head of this important piece of our membership helps. Every Monday, prayers concerns are sent out through groups which include texting, emails, and phone chains. This list includes those cases that have been offered specifically, but also our membership list separated into weeks. Each family is listed on this prayer chain twice a year, along with areas of faith which benefit from extra prayer. This information is listed in your newsletter to offer everyone the opportunity to pray for those listed. You may add persons or areas of care each week by calling Jan Brandenburg or Pastor Dorie at the following numbers

Jan Brandenburg - (507) 920-0555

Pastor Dorie - (507) 920-5278



For the month of March, there were 2 sponsors. Sewn in Faith in honor of their sewing group March 10, 2024 and Sue Stroh in loving memory of her loving husband, Alan Stroh on March 31, 2024.

If you would like to sponsor a broadcast.

The cost is \$95 and you may sign up on the bulletin board or Let Jakki know in the office. The radio broadcast is a very important piece of our ministry; any support is appreciated! Thank you!

Listen to our radio broadcast at 10:30am Sunday, Mon. at 3pm and Fri. at 5pm on VAST Channel 3, or on our Facebook page!

The Prayer Chain list for the month of April is as follows:

WEEK OF April 7, 2024 - Skyler and Ellen Wenninger Family, Annabelle Frakes, Autumn Barger Family, Justin VanWyhe Family, Phyllis Mohr and for our vision team.

WEEK OF April 14, 2024 - Travis and Amber Arends, Dawn Cope Family, Josh and Keela Fick Family, Sharron Betsinger, Wyattte and Amanda Kruse Family and for answers to our prayers and guidance in all ways.

WEEK OF April 21, 2024 - Misty Baker Family, Mike and Phoebe Flom Family, John and Jennifer Hilfers, Taylor Mulder Family, Marty and Candice Rigney Family, Heather VanWyhe and Christopher Brown Family and for our outreach ministries.

WEEK OF April 28, 2024 - Dustin Aning and Melissa Wood Family, Sally Cooksley, Mark and Tammy Moeller, Dale and Cindy Reverts, Madison Crabtree and for peace in our nation.



April 2024 Silver Bucket




Heifer International is a global nonprofit working to eradicate poverty and hunger through sustainable, values-based holistic community development. Their mission is to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and to care for the Earth.

Heifer's strategy is to Pass on the Gift. As people share their animals' offspring with others - along with their knowledge, Resources and skills - an expanding network of hope, dignity and self-reliance is created that reaches around the globe.



Just a reminder that there are Sunshine Food Grocery cards available in the office during the week and on Sundays. They make great gifts for the holiday season!

These work just like vouchers. These cards come in \$25, \$50, and \$100 increments. If you don't use it all...that is okay...this card holds the balance over for another time! Stop in and get some today.



we have set aside time when the church is open for an extended period of time for those who are looking for a quiet place to pray. Each Wednesday, 9 am to 7 pm, the Chapel (on the Upper Room level) is open and warm, set up for anyone wanting a quiet place to lift their thoughts in faith. There is soft music, books and printed prayers available to assist this time as well as Bibles and Hymnals. Having a specific spot, separate from your home offers a perfect way to be more committed to prayer and everyone is encouraged to take advantage of this special spot within our church building.



Prayer Warriors meet on the Second Sunday after church every month. This group is committed to praying regularly for those on their prayer list and for the church every month. We meet to discuss those who need to be on this list and celebrate the prayers that are answered. We have gone to specific areas of our community and laid hands on them and lift them in prayer as well, i.e., the fire department, police department, the schools, hospital and clinic, family services, etc. We also anoint our church on a regular basis and pray for those who enter our building, especially those with needs. Our prayer list is often available and on the Host Table in our Sanctuary.



Don't forget to mark your calendars for our monthly Pizza Ranch Take Out Fundraiser Night on the 2nd Wednesday of each month! 10% of the proceeds will come back to the church to benefit our Children and Youth Wednesday night programs!

It's easy! Call or go into Pizza Ranch and get your order to go...bring it home...ENJOY the yumminess of your meal...and BAM...10% of your order is given back to our church...

Our next Take-Out Night is

April 10, 2024



Need a place for your Sunshine receipts? The perfect place for them is in the Sunshine box that is located on the table at the back of the sanctuary. ALL receipts you get from the Luverne grocery store are acceptable (including floral, deli, stamps, etc.) We cannot use the receipts from the gas station though. As of today, over \$22,000 in receipts have been received and our church receives 1% of this total. The money received goes to the Compassion Fund which helps people in need. Thank you for your continued support - it is very much appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support!



We're cleaning out the kitchen and no longer need these cups, glasses, dinner plates and smaller plates. These items will be available After April 1, 2024. There is a free will donation with funds going to the Compassion Fund. Please do not take the flat trays nor the cup/plate trays or the cards. Talk to Becky Anderson if you have any questions! Thank you.



United
Women
in Faith

God's Circle
April 2, 2024
1:30pm



Sewn in Faith meets on the 2nd and fourth Tuesday of each month! This month we will meet on the following days:

April 9, 2024

April 23, 2024

We would love to have you join us! No need to know how to sew...we will teach you!



A Blessing of the Quilts was held during the March 10 church service where 69 quilts were displayed. People were amazed when they walked into the sanctuary and saw all the beautiful quilts. Thank you to those who purchased quilts after the service to help fund our continuing ministry. We will continue to display quilts throughout the year. Quilts that were designated to go to someone have been delivered (homebound, serious illness, baptisms, and death of a spouse). Even though as of this writing the FUEL Auction hasn't happened yet, thank you in advance to those who bought the 4 quilts that Sewn in Faith donated.



This goes out to our 3 seniors: Ella VanWyhe, Hunter Cope, and Mitchell Sauer! First, congratulations! I just wanted to remind you of your scholarship applications. They need to be completed and turned into the office or Steve Cattnach by April 14, 2024. Also the office needs your completed questionnaire (it came with the application) and a senior or recent picture by the same date. We will feature you in our May Messenger!

... It's Kids Sing Sunday...
April 21, 2024



There was change in our date, but no change in the amount of fun...after church on April 14th, we will start our festivities with a MN Hotdish free will donation meal which is always amazing, hosted by our ALIVE youth group. And then the real fun begins! Time to dig out our wallet for our Annual FUEL Auction where we will bid on a variety of great items. From baked goods to gift certificates from local and other businesses to fabulous quilts, and to a whole array of fun things. We will all hold up our numbers and find some good things to take home while supporting our kids' programs.

The funds from our annual auction are used to help us take weekends away, give us ice cream, and occasional day trips! It also helps us purchase supplies and programming and all kinds of good stuff we use to provide as we show our kids that being a Christian is an important piece of their lives. Your support provides camperships to encourage our kids to go to camp and other things which build a strong foundation for them.



Look who's graduating!

Ella VanWyhe ~ Mitchell Sauer ~

And Hunter Cope

Be sure to keep your eyes open and look for "Senior Spotlight" where we focus on these great kids in our May 2024 Messenger!



Confirmation Sunday ~ May 12, 2024

We have had such a special time in Confirmation this year! We will have three confirmands who will kneel before the altar during this special Worship Service and make the promises he has been learning about over the last four years. This year's confirmands are:

Danny Aning ~ Reegan Gabrielson

and Garrett Cattnach

Please join Danny, Reegan and Garrett on their big day as they continue on their journey of faith!



Did you know the Luverne United Methodist Church started the Schwartz Scholarship Fund in 1999. This means that for 25 years this fund has given a helping hand to all of this faith family seniors each year since. Please be sure to look for more information in our upcoming May Messenger!

Faith Family Feature

This month's faith Family feature focuses on our Homebound Ministry. Over the last 3 years this ministry has grown by leaps and bounds! It has gone from visiting one time per month to two times per month. Our homebound ministry team goes to visit on the second Wednesday and the third Tuesday of every month. They not only give our homebound holy communion, but it is a time to visit and spread joy and love. It is just as amazing for our visiting team as it is for those they visit! Thank you to Pastor Dorie, LaVonne Anderson, Christine VonHoltum, and Sue Stroh! If anyone feels they would like to join in, please speak to any of the people listed below!





HIPAA laws have made this area challenging, especially as we have become a live streaming congregation. It isn't always possible to be open and share names and concerns. Because of this, we will only share those things as the person involved specifically gives us permission to do so. We believe in the power of prayer! If you have an area of need, please do not hesitate to reach out to any of the above avenues. Especially know that Pastor Dorie is always available for a personal time of prayer and counsel.



May is Meals on Wheels month...

Please Contact Beth Fick if you would be interested in helping out with this important service for our community!!

Thank you so much!

LUVERNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Church Secretary
Jakki Lindsley
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2 - Crystal Enniga
3 - Kristen Ruppert
Carson Davis
4 - Josh VandenHoek
7- Aaron Moeller
8 - Liliann Cope
Josh Christensen
14 - Jack Hanson
20 - Katie Sauer
Roger Vogt
Trae Davis

22 - Taylor Mulder
23 - Courtney Kruger
25 - Lo Maurer
Travis Frakes
Brady Hall
29 - Jacob Fick
Mike Davis
Charlie Jackelen

COMMUNITY NIGHTS



April 24, 2024

May 22, 2024

June 26, 2024

Please Join Us
FREE OF CHARGE
5:30 PM

Worship Responsibilities

Date	Lay Reader	Hosts	Power Point	Sound	Counters	Worship Asst.	Coffee	Gift Cards
April 7	Laura Hollaren	Manny Olson	Jennifer Hilfers	David Vis	Felicia Hanson	Josh Crabtree	Felicia Hanson	Becky Anderson
April 14	Wyatte Kruse	Bill and Maggie Paulsen	Reegan Gabrielson	Jason Kruse	Everett and Jan Brandenburg	Becky Anderson	The Dwire Family	Christine V.
April 21	Bill Paulsen	Lee and Megan Tapper	Jennifer Hilfers	Matthew Fick	Gene Ashby	Felicia Hanson	Emily Crabtree	Sharron Betsinger
April 28	Maggie Paulsen	Christine VonHoltum	Jeanne Bowron	Luther Hall	Jay and Bev Mann	Willy Baker	Mary Gehrke	Brenda Stickling

Communion	Video
Ashley Christensen	Beth Fick

Trustee of the Week	
April 1, 2024 thru April 7, 2024	Al Aanenson
April 8, 2024 thru April 14, 2024	Roger Carlson
April 15, 2024 thru April 21, 2024	Bryce Schomacker
April 22, 2024 thru April 28, 2024	Laura Hollaren
April 29, 2024 thru May 5, 2024	Morris Fick

March Budget

General Budget Totals		
March 3, 2024 thru March 24, 2024		
Envelopes	\$	7,896.73
Loose Offering	\$	244.25
Apportionments	\$	30.00
Radio Broadcast	\$	95.00
Online Giving (February)	\$	3,900.00
Total	\$	12,165.98
Non Budget Donations		
Silver Bucket	\$	105.00
Food Shelf	\$	233.00
Total	\$	338.00
Misc. Giving - Reimbursement	\$	52.25
Totals	\$	12,165.98
	\$	338.00
	\$	52.25
Grand Total	\$	



Various Members of our Church recently meant to discuss areas of finance in our church to avoid the end of year scramble we have every year to meet our budget. We discussed many aspects of how that happens, and ideas were shared to try to change this experience and improve our financial health. We offered several things we could do:

*Use the Fifth Sunday to address various areas of need in our church, making a specific request with colored envelopes that month.

* Develop a detailed pamphlet detailing various areas of our finances and how they support our church and those within and beyond. Offering specific areas members may support.

*Be more visual in the areas of our church which members may not realize the impact of our budget. IE: we have 15 bathrooms, what does it take to care of them?

*Bring in people to share specific information about our monthly Silver Bucket

*Be purposeful in offering opportunities for giving, including the opportunity for more to sign up for electronic giving. We will work on providing time for individually sharing information and signing up on Sundays for a period of time.

Thank you to all of you and your support of our church and its faith family!

***Please note that the March 31st Budget will be added to next month's budget totals.**